

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 SIL-01 LAB-01

L-01 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 /034 W

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R 291750Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7756

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, IT

SUBJECT: CIVAIR-GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION STRIKE

REF: (A) ROME 14669; (B) ROME 14691

1. GENERAL CIVIL AVIATION STRIKE ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK (REF B) WAS HELD OCTOBER 29 FROM 0700 TO 1200 (LOCAL). APPARENTLY STRIKE ONLY COMPLETELY EFFECTIVE AT ROME/FIUMICINO AIRPORT, EVEN THOUGH SUPPOSEDLY NATIONWIDE IN SCOPE. ALITALIA AND ITAVIA CANCELLED SEVERAL MORNING FLIGHTS ORIGINATING IN ROME.

2. LOCAL US CARRIER REPS REPORT SITUATION CALM AT FIUMICINO. ALTHOUGH AIRPORT SERVICES PERSONNEL STAYED AWAY, MANY TWA EMPLOYEES REPORTED FOR WORK AS USUAL. TWA CANCELLED ONE OUTGOING FLIGHT (TURNED AROUND AT FRANKFURT INSTEAD OF TERMINATING IN ROME) AND OVERFLEW ANOTHER. ALL OTHER FLIGHTS OPERATED BUT WITH EXTENDED DELAYS.

3. LARGE "DEMONSTRATION" OF CIVAIR EMPLOYEES SCHEDULED TO MARCH IN DOWNTOWN ROME FIZZLED; ONLY ABOUT 100 PERSONS SHOWED UP TO PARTICIPATE, ACCORDING TO US CARRIER REPS. UNCERTAIN WEATHER (THREAT OF RAIN) UNDOUBTEDLY DETERRED SOME PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS.

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4. UNIONS REPORTEDLY STILL TRYING TO ORGANIZE BOYCOTT OF PAA/TWA

OPERATIONS IN ITALY. (BOYCOTT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED TO NEWS MEDIA AT UNIONS' PRESS CONFERENCE AND IN FLYERS FOR GENERAL DISTRIBUTION, AS WELL AS TO LOCAL US CARRIER REPS BY CIVAIR UNIONS LEADERSHIP, BUT WITH NO RPT NO INDICATION AS TO WHEN IT MIGHT BEGIN.)
NEVERTHELESS, TWA INTENDS PROCEED WITH TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT OF ROME-BASED CABIN PERSONNEL; FINAL NOTICE LETTERS WERE SENT OCTOBER 29. TWA APPEARS WILLING SUSPEND OPERATIONS IN ITALY FOR ENTIRE WINTER IATA SEASON, SHOULD THIS BE NECESSARY.

5. UNION REPS HAVE REQUESTED GOI (MINISTRY TRANSPORTATION AND CIVIL AVIATION) INTERVENTION IN PAA/TWA LABOR DISPUTE, INCLUDING REVOCATION OF US-ITALY AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT TO FORCE PAA/TWA TO AGREE TO "REASONABLE" SETTLEMENT (I.E., NO TERMINATION OF EMPLOYMENT).
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Message Attributes

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